THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Postal (mail) services are running with deficit of revenue, but this is not due to volume of mail traffic. The rate of postal services are decided based on various factors such as user profile, price elasticity, demands of various segments of society, etc. The postal services also have to fulfil the social objective of being affordable for all the segments of the society. To achieve this, pricing of the postal (mail) services is done in such a way that it is less than its cost of operations.

As regards telegraphic services are concerned, they are treated as part and parcel of telecommunications services like village panchayat telephones (VPT) and hence the question of evaluating revenue in terms of traffic does not arise.

(b) No, Sir. Fax and E-mail facilities have not made telegrams redundant since there still persists a demand for telegraph services. However, the E-mail facility has an impact on the telegram traffic. The fax traffic itself is under decline.

(c) The infrastructure and staff are part of the telecommunications services and suitable adjustments are made as and when required.

Illegal Routing of Incoming International Calls

1571. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cases detected so far involving private firms/persons in illegal routing of incoming international calls resulting in loss to the service providers, including MTNL and BSNL;

(b) the estimated loss to MTNL and BSNL as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the recalcitrants and the amount of loss recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.